



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 5.31.26
Mark 10:17-31 //Rick Duncan

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① At the beginning of his sermon, Pastor Rick shared about a time he wanted to get tickets for himself and one of his sons to a World Series game - but he didn't have the funds to do it. He talked about how money can open many doors for us in this life - but money doesn't open the doors to the kingdom of heaven. Think about the way our culture values money and financial security. In what ways do you think Christians in the U.S. today are particularly tempted to trust in money, or in the pursuit of money, more than we trust in Jesus?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min):

HERE is the Sermon Recap video playlist on Vimeo.

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Mark 10:17-31.

- ① Review Mark 10:19-21 and read Romans 5:8. Even when the rich young man told Jesus that he had kept all the commandments "from my youth" (as Rick pointed out, this was probably not true for every moment of this man's life), Jesus looked at him and loved him. Jesus loved this young man even when this young man was in denial about his own sin state. Jesus didn't look at him and "feel irritated by him" or "want him to go away" or "think about loving him only once this man started thinking or acting rightly." Jesus looked at him and loved him (verse 21) right then.
 - When you think about Jesus looking at you, and at your life, do you see a Jesus who loves you? Or do you see a Jesus that you think might be irritated at you, or might be tired of your sin struggles, or might be exasperated with you? Think about how you think Jesus looks at you, and discuss with your group why this might be. What do you think can help us have a better, more accurate, more biblical view of the way that Jesus looks at us?
 - Even though Christ died for us while we were still sinners, He doesn't want to leave us in our sin. Once Jesus is our leader and forgiver, we are completely justified (made righteous based on the finished work of Jesus) and we are being sanctified (becoming more like Jesus as we walk with Him over time). How do we hold these two ideas in tension well: that 1) Jesus loves us while we are lost in our sin and 2) once we come to know Him as forgiver and leader, Jesus calls us to turn from our sin and walk with Him?



② On Sunday, Rick said, “The issue is not, ‘Do you have things?’ The issue is, ‘Do your things have you?’” The issue in Mark 10 is not so much the amount of possessions the rich young man has, but the posture of his heart and what his heart loves most. Rick asked on Sunday, “I wonder if Jesus was having a conversation with you today, what would be the one thing He might ask you to give up?” It could be the success of your kids, an identity, a relationship, your possessions or security or comfort - there are lots of options!

- What do you think Jesus would ask you, or is asking you, to give up in order to love Him most and best?
- What clear and actionable steps can you take that will help you release your hands on this idol (whatever it is) so that you can cling more tightly and faithfully to Jesus?
- As with all of the Christian life, letting go of our idols takes reliance on God and intentional choice on our part too. What are some ways that you can intentionally pray and ask God to help you love Him more, and love the things of this world less?

③ Review Mark 10:27 and Mark 1:15. No one can get into the kingdom of heaven on their own - on their own effort, with their own funds, or in any other way. We are called to repent and believe in the good news about Jesus Christ, to trust in Jesus to be our leader and forgiver.

- How is this good news to you as you reflect on the circumstances of your life today in particular?
- Who is someone you can intentionally share this good news with this week?

④ Review Mark 10:29-31.

- Who is someone you can think of who has left behind something, or let go of something, in order to intentionally follow Jesus and invite others to walk with and grow in Him? How can you let this person know that you thought of them while reflecting on this question, as a way to encourage them this week in their walk with Jesus?
- What is something that you have left behind or let go of in order to faithfully love and follow Jesus with intention?



PRAY AND APPLY

Pray that Jesus would be exalted as more beautiful, more satisfying, and more valuable than money, success, comfort, relationships, pleasure, achievement, or any earthly treasure.

Pray that God would anoint the preaching of His Word with clarity, courage, compassion, conviction, and spiritual power so that people do not merely hear a sermon, but encounter the living Christ.

Pray that God would anoint the music and worship leaders so that our singing would not be performance-driven or emotionally shallow, but genuinely Christ-exalting, Spirit-filled, and worshipful.

Pray that believers would honestly identify idols in their own hearts—things they love, trust, fear, pursue, or treasure more than Jesus—and willingly surrender those things to Him.

Pray that those who are far from Christ would be deeply convicted by the Holy Spirit of the emptiness of self-sufficiency, worldly success, and false saviors, and that they would turn from their idols to embrace Jesus as Savior, Leader, and Forgiver.

Pray that our church family would increasingly value eternal treasure over temporary treasure and would live with open hands, radical generosity, and wholehearted obedience to Jesus.

Pray that those who have sacrificed greatly for Christ—missionaries, faithful parents, servants, disciplers, and suffering believers—would be strengthened and reminded that nobody who follows Jesus ultimately loses.

Pray that God would do what is impossible for man—save people, soften hard hearts, awaken spiritual hunger, reorder loves, and draw many to follow Jesus joyfully and fully.



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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 5.31.26

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

CVC YOUTH

Movin Up' - June 14

Goodbye middle school—hello high school! Moving Up is our welcome to all incoming 9th graders. Come meet your new high school leaders in room 104/106 at 11:15am where Collide meets. The countdown to your high school CVC Youth journey starts now!

Frontlines Summer Camp - June 21-26

The best week of your summer—guaranteed. Frontlines is packed with powerful worship, deep teaching, games and friendships you'll carry for life. Get ready to grow in your faith, make incredible memories, and have more fun than you thought possible. Register [HERE](#)

INVITE

Explore CVC Membership Class- June 14

Membership moves us from an observer to a participant and from a consumer to a contributor. It is a public affirmation of a commitment to Christ and to a specific local body. To consider membership, your first step is attending Explore CVC. To become a member of our church, attendance at two classes is required. The first class is called Explore CVC, and the second is Join CVC. Completion of both is necessary for membership. [Register here!](#)

CVC KIDS

Sports Camp - July 27 -31

Registration opens soon!